

Scarba Welfare House for Children

1920 – 1965

Details

Scarba Welfare House for Children at Bondi was run by the Benevolent Society and was previously known as the Scarba Welfare House for Women and Children. It was a home for babies and small children, most of whom were short-term residents. In 1965, the name changed to Scarba House for Children.

In the years 1917 to 1986, between 30,000 and 40,000 children passed through Scarba.

In 2006 the Benevolent Society published a history of Scarba, as part of its response to the Senate Inquiry into the Forgotten Australians. The report intended to set out the good and the bad, and acknowledge mistakes made in the care of children. The report acknowledges that it is difficult to find out what Scarba was like in the period before 1965, and few individual records of that time survive.

Scarba Welfare House for Children was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Report* (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Life at Scarba House

Description: Scarba House and grounds, 1930 - 1940. Panoramic view of Main Block Observation and Isolation Block Grounds Playground and Children.

More info

Chronology

- Scarba Welfare House for Women and Children (1917 - 1920)
 - **Scarba Welfare House for Children (1920 – 1965)**
 - Scarba House for Children (1965 - 1986)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Benevolent Society of New South Wales \(1813 - current\)](#)
Date: 1920 - 1965

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)

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Related Organisations

- [Post Adoption Resource Centre \(1991 - current\)](#)

The staff of the Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC) is willing to discuss aspects of the history of Scarba Welfare House for Children with former clients and their relatives. PARC also handles complaints. People do not need to have been adopted to use this service.

Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012
- Stolen Generations' Testimonies Foundation, [Stolen Generations' Testimonies](#), 2009. *Relevance*: See testimony of Lorraine Mcgee-Sippel
- Bluett, Ros, [Charity and Justice: The early days of the Benevolent Society in Sydney](#), 24 March 2013
- Benevolent Society, [Benevolent Society: 200 year celebration: Last 200](#), 2013
- O'Neill, Cate, [Six years on from the national apology](#), Find & Connect web resource blog, 16 November 2015

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [Benevolent Society of New South Wales Collection, 1813-1996 \(1813 - 1996\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/scarba-welfare-house-for-children/>